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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

12 MAY 2020

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Pine Valley – US Border Patrol Agents Seize More Than 100-Pounds of Methamphetamine

(U) Border Patrol agents arrested a woman on 10 May with 103-pounds of methamphetamine in the bed of her truck. A canine detection team performed a search of the truck, which resulted in a positive alert. With a further search, agents discovered 74 plastic-wrapped packages of methamphetamine worth more than \$230,000 concealed inside a duffel bag and a trash can in the bed of the pick-up. The woman and the narcotics were turned over to the DEA for further investigation.

SOURCE: 11 May 2020, [CBP](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Arkansas – Professor Accused of Hiding Chinese Funding

(U) Fayetteville – On Monday, the US Justice Department accused a professor in Arkansas of improperly accepting funds from the Chinese government. The professor has already accepted a guilty plea in a similar case, the latest examples of the US government's effort to combat China's influence in American academia. The professor from the University of Arkansas was arrested on 8 May and charged with wire fraud. He worked for and received funding from Chinese companies and from the Thousand Talents program, which awards grants to scientists to encourage relationships with the Chinese government, and he warned an associate to keep his affiliation with the program quiet, court papers said. He kept the financial arrangements secret, allowing him to secure other grants from US government agencies, including NASA that the Chinese funding made him ineligible for, according to court documents.

SOURCE: 11 May 2020, [New York Times](#)

(U) District of Columbia – FBI and DHS to Warn of Chinese Hackers Targeting US COVID-19 Research

(U) Washington – The FBI and DHS are preparing to issue a warning that China's most skilled hackers and spies are working to steal American research in the crash effort to develop vaccines and treatments for the COVID-19. A draft of the forthcoming public warning, which officials say is likely to be issued in the days to come, says China is seeking "valuable intellectual property and public health data through illicit means related to vaccines, treatments and testing." The advisory is expected to be issued jointly by the FBI and DHS, though the timing of its release is fluid.

SOURCE: 11 May 2020, [CBS](#)

(U) Illinois – Two Charged with Trafficking Cocaine and Illegally Possessing Handguns

(U) Chicago – A federal grand jury has indicted two roommates for allegedly trafficking cocaine and illegally possessing handguns. Law enforcement in February searched the defendants' apartment in downtown Oak Park and discovered distribution quantities of cocaine and crack cocaine, as well as five semiautomatic handguns. The search also revealed a money-counting machine, electronic scales, and a cooking pot and utensils with white residue on them. According to the indictment, both men are charged with drug conspiracy and possession of firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking crimes. The pair is also charged with illegally possessing firearms as previously convicted felons.

SOURCE: 11 May 2020, [DOJ](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED**(U) INTERNATIONAL****(U) Afghanistan – At Least 37 Dead Following Funeral Bombing and Doctors Without Borders Attack**

(U) Kabul – A suicide attack killed or wounded at least 47 people in eastern Nangarhar province on 12 May, the provincial government said. According to a statement released by the governor's office of Nangarhar, a suicide bomber targeted the funeral ceremony of a senior police official who died of a heart attack. A spokesperson for the provincial government said the explosion killed 17 people and wounded at least 30 others. No group claimed the attack, and the Taliban says it was not involved in the bombing. Separately, gunmen attacked a hospital in the Afghan capital, Kabul, on 12 May where the international humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders runs a maternity clinic, officials said. At least eight civilians were killed and several others were wounded in the attack on the Dasht-e-Barchi Hospital, according to an interior ministry official.

SOURCE: 12 May 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) Afghanistan – ISIS regional leader Sheikh Khorasani Arrested in Afghanistan

(U) Kabul – The leader of the ISIS group in South Asia and the Far East has been arrested in Kabul, Afghanistan's intelligence service says. Zia ul-Haq, also known as Sheikh Omar Khorasani, was held with two other senior leaders of the militant group. The operation was conducted after a tip by four recently arrested senior ISIS members, and based on security and intelligence inputs, a statement by the service said. The agency "will continue its comprehensive and targeted operations to hunt down senior leaders of regional terrorist groups and destroy the joint hubs of these terrorist networks," the statement said. The Taliban are the main militant group in Afghanistan but ISIS has been active in some areas and has carried out several bomb attacks in Kabul.

SOURCE: 12 May 2020, [BBC](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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